



Press Information Note

1st WORKSHOP ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SADC STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT ON IUU FISHING AND ELABORATION OF A SUSTAINABILITY PLAN FOR THE SADC REGIONAL FISHERIES MONITORING CONTROL AND SURVEILLANCE COORDINATION CENTRE, IN WINDHOEK, NAMIBIA 16 – 17 OCTOBER 2012.

The SADC Secretariat, with financial support from the European Union's (EU) ACP Fish II Programme and with technical guidance from NFDS Africa are organizing one workshop to be held in Windhoek, Namibia, the 16th-17th of October 2012. The workshop will provide an opportunity to discuss various aspects of the process of implementation of the Southern African Development Community's (SADC) Statement of Commitment (SoC) on Illegal Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing as well as sustainability aspects in relation to the establishment of a SADC Regional Fisheries Monitoring Control and Surveillance (MCS) Coordination Centre. The event will be attended by 8 representatives of the 15 SADC Member States.

Ms Laura Imbuwa for the EU delegation to Namibia and Mr. Gustavo Miranda, ACP Fish II Programme Coordinator will also attend the event opening.

This workshop represents the first step to finalize 2 studies concerning the implementation of the SoC on IUU and the sustainability of the regional MCS Coordination Center, which will be providing recommendations for the work towards the establishment the SADC Regional Fisheries MCS Coordination Centre. This will feed into the second workshop to be held in Maputo, in November this year for the validations of the outputs of the studies and to identify options to secure funding for the Centre.

SADC's goal is to promote socio-economic cooperation and integration as well as political and security cooperation among 15 southern African states: Angola, Botswana, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Seychelles, Swaziland, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing is widely recognized as the scourge of the fishing industry, becoming more and more widespread in the region, leading to an unsustainable harvest of fish stocks and other marine wildlife, destruction of habitats, loss of fish for future harvest, loss of nutrition, and loss of income and employment for legitimate fishers. To face such a challenge in 2002, the SADC Protocol on Fisheries came into force, with the objective of promoting the "responsible use of the living aquatic resources to enhance food security and human health, safeguard the livelihood systems of fishing communities, and generate economic opportunities for nationals in the region and to ensure that future generations benefit from these resources". In July 2008, SADC Fisheries Ministers signed the SADC Fisheries Ministers' Statement of Commitment to combat IUU fishing (SoC), which highlighted the priority areas to curb IUU fishing in the region. The Statement, which has been annexed to the SADC

Protocol on Fisheries, calls for strengthening the efforts to improve regional and inter-regional cooperation for fisheries governance and to reinforce monitoring control and surveillance (MSC) capacity at regional level.

In July 2010 the SADC Action Plan for combating IUU fishing and providing for the set-up of a SADC Regional Fisheries MSC Coordination Centre (MCSCC) was approved by the SADC Member States, along with the decision of Mozambique being its host country. The mission of the regional Centre will be to coordinate fisheries MCS and enforcement activities (in port, at sea and in major shared fresh water courses), and to set up a regional platform for the conduction of regional Patrol Plan and for supporting the capacity building for harmonized implementation of the SADC Protocol on Fisheries and development of training.

The ACP Fish II Programme, supporting this initiative, is a 30 million Euro Programme funded by the 9th European Development Fund of the European Union which aims to strengthen the capacity of fisheries management in 79 Africa-Caribbean-Pacific (ACP) countries. In the Southern African region the Programme - with a budget of 3 million of euro - contributed to the implementation of the SADC fisheries strategy with a series of studies to identify the steps for the installation and launching of the Regional Fisheries MCS Centre which will be hosted by Mozambique, focusing both on the intuitional/legal framework as well as on the financial management and sustainability of the Centre. The Programme has also contributed to the improvement of the national policy framework in some countries of the region by supporting the revision of fisheries policies and strategies and the elaboration of management plans. In Namibia for example ACP Fish II has already provided support for the formulation of the Management Plan for the Namibian Hake Fishery. Similar interventions have been implemented in Botswana, Malawi, Mauritius, Swaziland and Zambia.

For further information on the workshop please contact Deborah Fourie – dfourie@nfds.info Tel: +2673926298.

For more information on ACP FISH II Programme in the Southern Africa: <http://www.acpfish2-eu.org/>.
Contact person: Leone Tarabusi, Regional Manager Southern Africa - ACP Fish II, email: l.tarabusi@acpfish2-eu.org, Tel/Fax +258 21302769, Cell +258 824024972



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